

دانيال ساجليوني

The amazing achievements of Daniele Scaglioni

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 25 — There is a warmth, a length of life that endears one to the landscapes and still-lives of Daniele Scaglioni; a gentleness, yet a powerful spontaneity that you cannot resist. Thus endeared and unresisting, you can allow yourself to feel the emotions the artist has sealed into the canvas with his colour and forms.

Mr. Scaglioni's composition is delicate, always difficult to achieve convincingly; and it is through his colours that the complexity of his emotions comes out. Again and again he depicts his native Italian mountain villages with serenity and confidence in the bold lines and roofs, the lumpy terraces and verdant vegetation. Yet it is never a repetition of another as the glowing urgency of the colours comes across in hues as varied as the artist's feelings.

Mr. Scaglioni is an artist who has found himself. He knows what he wants to say, and expresses it in his own style — he finds joy in the colour and delicacy of a few lines set in juxtaposition to the overall firmness of the blocky shapes. There is exhilaration from the speed and movement in the lines and roofs and racing roads of the landscapes that seem to come alive deep within himself. Generally, it is an optimistic vision, full of joy of life. There is no bitterness; only sometimes a sadness that is the blue of the sky, in the red of the earth.

The above is a review of Mr. Scaglioni's work with no thought of anything but of the man as an artist. But the exhibition of his work which opened today at the Alia Art Gallery has a special purpose besides the chance it gives us to see his paintings; and this is the son he brought 170 pieces with him rather than the usual 20, more normal for an exhibition. To review his work as the Italian press does as that of a normal person, though desirable, is here not sufficient.

Daniele Scaglioni is a spastic who has overcome his disability with such a strength of mind and purpose that he leads a normal life in every aspect; but in reality Mr. Scaglioni is more than normal. His intelligence and enormous sensitivity, his capacity for humour and life make him a very special individual.

In his work he is also more than normal, for although most of it can be judged by ordinary standards, there is a part which cannot be — one who does not know what it is to suffer from a disability could have painted these amazingly powerful portraits of handicapped children and adults. They are undoubtedly his finest works, capturing and making one feel these people as they are. The niceties or subtleties hide their deformed limbs and empty eyes, as Francis Bacon images from reality; but at the same time Mr. Scaglioni makes you see them as they are — with profound and utter empathy and love — a word ascribed not here used loosely.

Nobody else could have painted these forceful portraits, which are finely and sensitively executed as they mark Mr. Scaglioni as a

truly great artist.

Amazing

All of this makes it doubly amazing to realise that Mr. Scaglioni comes from a background in which his handicap made him the underprivileged of the underprivileged. It is by himself alone that Mr. Scaglioni has made himself into the rich, successful but no less determined artist he now is.

Daniele Scaglioni's family lived in the converted barn and entrance hall of the farmhouse on a farm that was divided into many portions on his grandfather's death. They scraped a living from six acres of farmland — the life of many in the Italian mountains.

Mrs. Scaglioni's first son had died, and it looked as if her second was also dead after she struggled to deliver the baby, which was tangled in the umbilical cord, for three days and nights. The midwife set the baby aside and covered him; but Daniele's grandmother, refusing to accept the death, took the baby and dipped him in and out of the warm pot of water that was always suspended above the fire. Her faith and work were rewarded when at last, two hours after his birth, Daniele started to cry.

Daniele's handicap, although caused by this traumatic birth (the tragedy of which was that it could have been prevented if his family could have afforded hospital treatment), was not noticed until the child was two years old. His mother, a wet nurse, had always fed him; and Daniele talked normally, so it was only his delay in learning to walk that aroused their suspicions.

When they realised his handicap, his family sold all they had and left to live in Modena, where he could receive special treatment. By horse and carriage they transported all their old furniture down to the city, where they bought a small apartment for the equivalent of JD 120.

Daniele's mother, through the rich family for whom she worked as a wet nurse, found his father a job in the iron foundry; and for six months they lived a very happy and secure life, until tragedy struck again. One morning Daniele's father did not return from work — he had been suffocated under a load of coke coming down a faulty chute. The foundry, although it gave work to Daniele's brother and sister, paid no compensation. His father's coworkers paid for the funeral.

Daniele was then put into a government home for rehabilitation — which he still shudders to recall because of its negative attitude, but which, however, gave him a daily 40 minutes of rehabilitation and normal school classes. And because he enjoyed painting, the teacher gave him water-colours and brushes to use in his spare time.

He missed his family, especially his adored mother, who would visit him regularly every two weeks. One day, two years after his father's death, his mother failed to come. The young Daniele, in much distress, wrote her desperately touching letters asking why. Nobody told him the reason for six months, until he went home and saw for himself that in a bowl of terrific depression, caused by poverty and overwork, his mother had attempted suicide, which resulted not in loss of life but in the loss of her legs.

Even when at home the truth was kept from him for some days. Daniele being sent on errands when it was time to move his mother. In desperation he crawled under the table to find out the mystery. "Don't be afraid," his brother told him. "Your mother lost her legs, but they will give her new ones better than before." Meanwhile Daniele carried on painting, and he says that it is his art that has saved him. Spastics tend to be very intelligent with normal or high I.Q.s. They are always thinking and full of ideas. More than often, however, they have difficulty in expressing themselves, and all their creativity accumulates and ultimately destroys them. Daniele found his release in painting.

At 15, he won his first award for his work — a prize of 20 turkey eggs and six bottles of wine — things of which he was so proud he could never bring himself to use them. After a year on display the eggs turned rotten, and the wine turned to Marsala!

The press took him under its wing because of his handicap and gave him enormous encouragement, which made the other artists envious, especially as



"In the Storm": 24 x 30 cm.



Daniele Scaglioni, photographed during a visit to London.

Mr. Scaglioni on his own merits, was walking off with the medals and prizes. It got so bad that he had to submit his work for exhibitions at the very last moment so that all the others had entered thinking that he had not.

Mr. Scaglioni was studying art all this time, and eventually put on his first big exhibition in Modena. He sold his paintings to the tune of JD 250 — a lot of money. He had never seen so much in all his life.

'Beautiful gift'

With this encouragement and financing, Mr. Scaglioni went to Bologna and Rome with more exhibitions, and getting a very favourable reception from both the public and the critics. He met all the famous names in the Italian art world, from De Chirico to Raffaele De Grada; and the critics gave him what he calls the "most beautiful gift" when they declared that his work was that of a normal painter. The word "handicap" was dropped from reviews of his work from that time onwards.

During this period, within the space of only six months, the price of his works leapt from JD50 to JD500. Then as today, there was a big market for his work. Consequently, Mr. Scaglioni made a lot of money in two years — enough to be secure for the rest of his life, and to let himself and his family live very comfortably.

From houses and land, he went on to consolidate his position further by opening an art gallery and a pub. This pub, run by his brother, made enough money in two years to allow his brother to build his own house.

"How strange life is," Mr. Scaglioni muses — and indeed it is. His mother always worried about Mr. Scaglioni more than her other children, and yet he is the one who has looked after his family. Mr. Scaglioni is very close to his

handicapped friends — taking them around Italy and helping them financially gives him very great pleasure. It is for them, and for handicapped people all over the world, that he is now working. His one great goal, overthrowing all other ambitions, is to build a hotel in San Remo just for handicapped people.

The dream started when Mr. Scaglioni was 17. With the money from his first exhibition he hired a bus and took off with his handicapped friends for San Remo, having heard a rumour that a woman there wanted to build a hotel for the handicapped. She never did, which strengthened Mr. Scaglioni's resolve; and the final commitment to his dream came five years ago, after his encounter with an unbelievably narrow-minded "normal" person.

Determined

The depression with which Mr. Scaglioni's sensitive spirit reacted

to this incident was very great indeed; but he pulled through, his art again helping him, as he has painted a very graphic representation of this scene — a scene which had made him determined (too feeble a word to describe his iron-like resolve) to build his hotel.

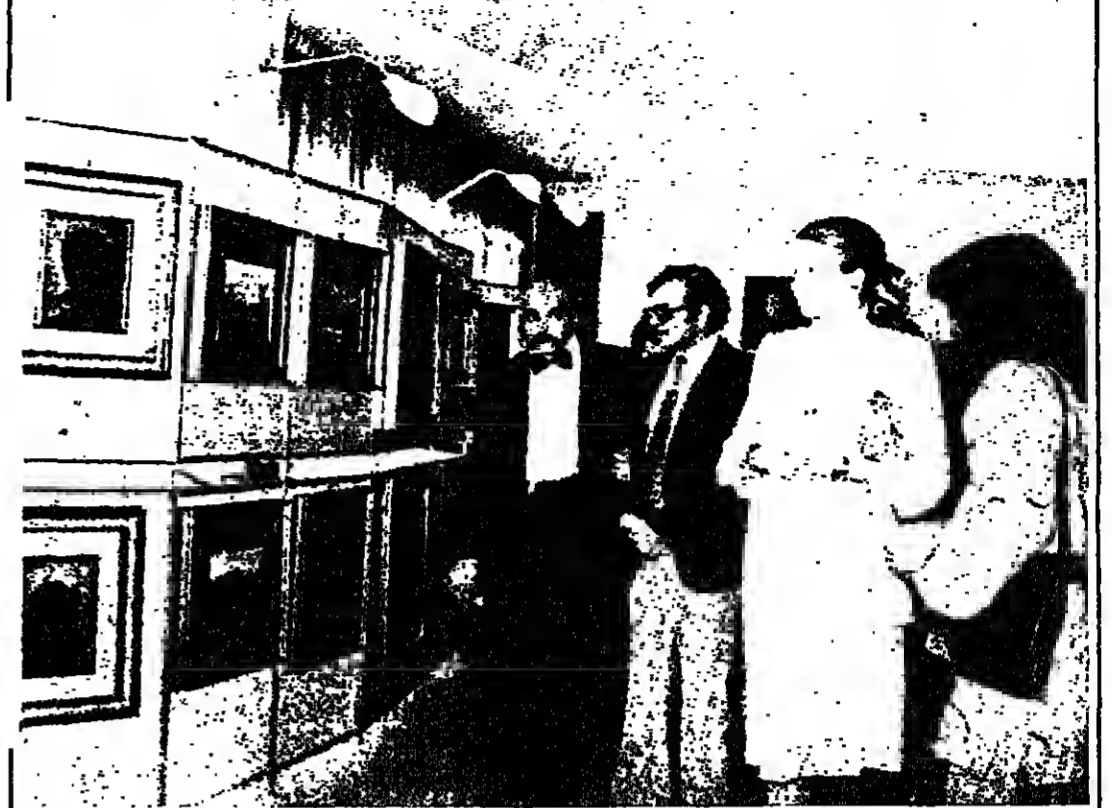
Mr. Scaglioni is a prolific painter, and in one year he has raised JD 200,000 by selling his work to businessmen and industrialists. He takes his work to them directly by car, which cuts out exhibition fees; and every bit of the money he receives from these sales and from the current exhibition will go towards his dream. After his exhibition here in Amman and Irbid, he hopes to go on to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to raise more money.

Mr. Scaglioni's great optimism and trust in people tell him and everybody who meets him that he will achieve his aim of making JD 650,000 by the end of 1981 — the International Year of the Disabled — and his 120-room hotel, which will employ as many handicapped people as possible as well as entertain them, will come to be.

Mr. Scaglioni's great wish, he says, is that "all my friends and all disabled people like me will have music and champagne, and that for at least once in their life they will forget their suffering."

The exhibition will stay at the Alia Art Gallery until Tuesday. It will be on view at Yarmouk University in Irbid from April 30-May 3.

Queen opens Scaglioni exhibition



AMMAN, April 25 (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor today opened an exhibition of paintings by the Italian artist Daniele Scaglioni. The Queen toured the exhibition at the Alia Art Gallery, which will be open for three days. Attending the opening of the exhibition were Princess Basma, Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, the chief chamberlain, cabinet members and their wives, a number of members of the Italian community and other guests.



"Among the houses": 24 x 30 cm. (all the paintings reproduced on this page are in Mr. Scaglioni's current Amman exhibition)

Amman's most experienced hotel
HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL

mad hatter's party

wear your most exotic chapeau

APRIL 28th

take your drinks between 8-11pm

El Pasha DISCOTHEQUE



"Hood on the Head": 20 x 30 cm.

هللا من الامل

MIDDLE EAST

Sadat: I'd join NATO

JOY

RO, April 25 (A.P.) — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat says personally favours joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, but refrains because it would see it as foreign domination.

In a wide-ranging interview published in the authoritative Egyptian magazine, the Egyptian leader said the United States has to build military bases for Egyptian army, and that he approved stationing an undetermined number of U.S. troops in the event of a threat to Arab lands.

"Personally I am not at all against joining NATO," Mr. Sadat said in the interview with Editor-in-Chief Anis Mansour, a close aide. "The danger that faces the world is the same."

However, Mr. Sadat said, "we

are sensitive to the permanent presence of American bases on our soil."

Egyptian opposition parties, harkening back to British domination of Egypt in colonial days, have criticised Mr. Sadat's offer of military "facilities" to the United States for use in Middle East crises.

"Anyway," Mr. Sadat said in the interview, "The United States will not touch Egypt's sovereignty, just as it does not affect the sovereignty of any other NATO member state..."

"The United States, for example, has large bases in England, but we do not hear, or read in newspapers, that the United States is occupying England."

Mr. Sadat said he had explained this sensitivity to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig Jr. during



Anwar Sadat

his visit here earlier this month. "The United States accepts our point of view completely," Mr. Sadat said.

Gulf," Mr. Sadat said. "The Saudis themselves need American protection, have asked for it, but do not have the courage to announce that publicly. They are scared of Iraq, Syria and the Palestinians."

"But" he pointed out "the situation in the area is dangerous and we cannot afford to close our eyes to the realities... Saudi Arabia is like a sleeping duck... we cannot afford this."

Mr. Sadat said that in the wake of the revolution in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Egypt and the United States "know where the danger is coming from, that is why we must be prepared for it," he stressed.

He revealed that there has been an exchange of letters between the United States and Egypt on the issue during the Carter administration in September 1980, in the wake of the Iran-Iraq war.

That exchange includes a commitment by the United States to build bases for the Egyptian army, he said, and he added "I told President Carter that I am ready to host all the troops needed to help Saudi Arabia in the event of danger. In doing this I am helping Saudi Arabia."

Mr. Sadat referred to the proposed upgrading of a remote Egyptian military base, on the Red Sea—less than an hour's flight from Saudi Arabia. The base known as Ras Banas has a port and airstrip.

The construction, estimated to cost \$2.6 billion would be the most ambitious overseas building project since the Vietnam war.

Sadat visits Sudan

RO, April 25 (A.P.) — President Anwar Sadat of Egypt says he will visit Sudan in May—his first visit to an Arab country since signing the peace treaty with Israel months ago.

An interview published today said Sadat also said he "blessed" Sudanese President Gaafar Numeiri's attempts to bring Egypt and Arabs together again.

He will go to Sudan for the May celebrations and have lengthy talks with President Numeiri, Sadat said in the interview in the authoritative October magazine. "Our relations with the Arab countries are ties of life or death—we are the same waters of the Nile."

Both countries formally recalled their ambassadors earlier this month. But some 17 Arab embassies still have no diplomatic relations with Egypt on account of the war with Israel.

The restoration of relations is linked to the Soviet-backed Libyan military intervention in Chad, Sudan's neighbour to the west.

Egypt and Sudan have said they feel threatened by the Libyan army.

In the interview published by Mr. Sadat said the situation in Chad "is deteriorating quickly and we have to watch the developments there carefully. The danger is not far from anyone, anywhere."

Mr. Sadat's visit to the Sudan is

in response to an invitation by Mr. Numeiri to attend the celebrations marking the 12th anniversary of the Sudanese revolution.

Mr. Numeiri in a recent interview with an Egyptian magazine said he would soon start mediation efforts to bridge the gap between Egypt and the rest of the Arab countries.

While blessing Numeiri's attempts to bring the Arabs together again, Mr. Sadat noted that it would not be too difficult for him to fly to Saudi Arabia "and offer options of how to restore harmony among the Arabs."

"I know I will be well received, because that is the Arab tradition", but I am not sure the Saudis are ready to accept the Egyptian solution with an open heart," Mr. Sadat said.

He did not elaborate but said he had discussed options of how to regroup the Arabs during talks with American and European leaders.

"I know some of these solutions have been relayed to several Arab capitals. But I do not know how far they are acceptable to them," he said.

The United States is trying to carve an anti-Soviet area of stability stretching from Egypt south to Sudan and across the Arabian Peninsula all the way to Pakistan. But to do so it has been urging the Arabs to reconcile their differences over peace with Israel.

In the interview the Egyptian leader reiterated his anxiety over Soviet expansion and designs on the oil-rich Arab Gulf states. He stressed that it was this concern that led him to approve the stationing of U.S. troops in the event of danger, and meanwhile the building of bases for the Egyptian army.

"When we extend military facilities to the United States, the primary aim is the defence of the

neighbours, they are no better than smugglers and bandits.

Leftists see them as counter-revolutionaries, led by mustered landlords and opposed to progress. But to Iran's ruling clergy, they are a potential vehicle for exporting Islamic revolution to Marxist-ruled Afghanistan.

The mujahideen were seen during a three-day visit, only recently made possible by the opening up of the eastern border areas to foreign correspondents.

Though Iran says it has no figures, there are believed to be half a million Afghans living inside Iran's 800 kilometre border with Afghanistan, and they form a fertile recruiting ground for the many exiled rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government of President Babrak Karmal.

Afghan mujahideen get mixed reception

By Alan Philips

TAYBAD, Iran — As the sun rises over this small town in north-east Iran, scores of Afghan refugees kick their Russian-made Planeta motorcycles into life and bump over 15 kilometres of dirt road to their homeland.

They crowd the town's only petrol station to swap gossip or tinker with the bikes. Only their multi-coloured donkey saddle-bags and their trailing turbans, a distinctive feature of Afghan dress, add a touch of the exotic.

They call themselves mujahideen (crusaders) fighting "red imperialism" in their homeland against 85,000 Soviet troops. But to many of the local population, traditionally wary of their Afghan

neighbours, they are no better than smugglers and bandits.

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MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Islamic Committee on Jerusalem to gain support for PLO

FEZ, MOROCCO, April 25 (A.P.) — The Islamic Committee on Jerusalem wound up a two-day closed conference late yesterday with the adoption of several resolutions to try to isolate Israel and gain support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The committee also asked the Islamic Conference to organise in the coming months an international conference on Jerusalem in Washington to try to sway American opinion in favour of an Israeli withdrawal from the city, a holy site for the Muslim, Jewish and Christian religions.

The committee, presided over by Morocco's King Hassan II, decided to continue its diplomatic campaign in Western Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia and the United States to try to persuade them to recognise the PLO and to put pressure on Israel to liberate Jerusalem and the Arab territories occupied during the 1967 war. The committee also called on all Islamic countries to use all means at their disposal to pressure the West into suspending bilateral and multi-lateral agreements with Israel. Finally, it called on the Islamic states to contribute \$50 million to a Jerusalem Fund to finance "the Palestinian struggle against Israel."

Thatcher discusses cooperation in Qatar

DOHA, Qatar, April 25 (A.P.) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher began talks here today with the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, on the last leg of her Arabian Peninsula tour. The Qatari News Agency reported. The two heads of state discussed cooperation between Qatar and Britain and ways to consolidate and develop this cooperation. They also discussed international issues of common interest, the Palestinian problem and the situation in the Gulf region, according to the official news agency. Mrs. Thatcher arrived in Qatar yesterday from Oman. She also visited India, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

EEC envoy discusses M.E. peace initiative in Cairo

CAIRO, April 25 (R) — Dutch Foreign Minister Christoph van der Klauuw arrived here yesterday for talks with Egyptian officials on the proposed European peace initiative in the Middle

East. Dr. van der Klauuw, president of the European Economic Community (EEC) Council of Ministers, told reporters here that the community "would like to be more active, discuss the possibilities and find the elements for a peace solution." The Dutch minister, who has already visited Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Iraq, Tunisia, Lebanon and the United States, said he would visit other countries in the Middle East and submit a report to the EEC by the end of June. Egyptian foreign minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who greeted him at the airport, said any peaceful solution in the Middle East had to be based on the Camp David accords signed in 1978.

18,000 guns seized in last three days in Turkey

ANKARA, April 25 (A.P.) — Turkish military officials announced today a total of 17,000 handguns and 1,000 rifles and automatic weapons were seized across Turkey in the last three days. In its announcement, the Martial Law Coordination Centre here said the bulk of the firearms were found in open areas in rural Turkey, apparently thrown away by suspected militants and residents after an appeal to surrender all firearms. The announcement said a total of 52,000 rounds of ammunition and 114 bombs were seized in operations carried out by soldiers and para-military gendarmerie in remote parts of the country. The crackdown on gun-possession was ordered by the ruling, five-general national security council following the military takeover last September. In recent years, Turkey had been wracked by political, sectarian and ethnic strife resulting in over 5,000 deaths until the military intervention. Sources said an estimated 250,000 firearms were rounded up or surrendered by citizens in the military's drive to disarm warring leftist and rightist gangs.

Prominent economist detained in Turkey

ANKARA, April 25 (R) — One of Turkey's most prominent economists has been detained by military authorities here, his family said today. Relatives said Professor Sadun Aren was taken from his home late last night. The military authorities told Mr. Aren his detention was related to investigations into the activities of Turkey's big left-wing labour confederation (DISK). The family said, Mr. Aren was chairman of DISK's research unit before the confederation was closed down after the military takeover last September. Nearly 200 members of DISK, including Chairman Abdullah Basturk are imprisoned in Istanbul.



"Only... their trailing turbans, a distinctive feature of Afghan dress, add a touch of the exotic."



"But to many of the local population, traditionally wary of their Afghan neighbours, they are no better than smugglers and bandits."

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APR. 26, 1981

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APR. 27, 1981

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Because of planetary influence you could run into some problems of a minor nature early in the day, but conditions return to normal later. Conserve your energies.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try to understand the expectations of those who have power over your affairs today. Strive for more prestige.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Morning is fine for studying new interests and making plans for the future. Show more thoughtfulness for others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Finish that work you started and then be off to the fascinating activities that appeal to you. Sidestep an opponent.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can work out a difficult problem with the help of others early in the day. Plan the new week wisely.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Attend to routine chores early in the day so you'll have time for social activities later. Show others you have poise.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Daytime hours are best for being with good friends and relatives, and reserve personal duties for the evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Pay more attention to family members and have more harmony at home. Make plans to have more abundance in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take those extra steps that are needed to gain your personal aims. Sidestep one who likes to impose on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to please close ties today instead of worrying about personal affairs. Engage in favorite hobby.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Daytime hours are best for handling personal matters. Schedule social activities for the coming week.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Take care of private affairs early in the day and then join congenials at recreation you enjoy. Have a delightful time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You need to apply yourself more to gain your personal aims at this time. Show more consideration for the one you love.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will want to please others and will be willing to obey all rules and regulations in order to do so. Direct education along entertainment lines and service to others for best results in lifetime.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are not sure about the truth of information you have received because deceptive conditions are in effect. Try to be more open-minded and objective in all your dealings.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't interfere with the activities of loved one today or there could be trouble. Study outlets that could add to your income.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use tact and avoid argument with a stubborn associate. State your views to those who can help you in the future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan your affairs on a sound basis and gain added security in the future. Listen to what an expert has to suggest.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may have to postpone plans for a social gathering because of a new situation coming up. Be logical.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Begin the week properly by cooperating more with associates. Study new ways to improve the quality of your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may have difficulty gaining the data you need today, so be more tactful and steer clear of impending danger.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) New thoughts about the money you have may not be right, so be sure to make a careful study before making a decision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't be forceful with others to gain your aims today. Take more time to formulate a better plan of action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study your money situation and take steps to improve it. Take time for relieving tensions in the evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Not the right day to see an influential person who can be of help to you. Be more objective in all your dealings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Show that you appreciate the support of higher-ups and gain further goodwill. Many benefits can come your way.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have fine ideas that should be put in motion without delay. Find a good philosophy of life to follow for the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can comprehend difficult situations, and would do well in investigative work, so direct the education along such lines for best results. Be sure to give good religious training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

ECONOMY

After U.S. lifts embargo Grain's high on Soviet shopping list

MOSCOW, April 25 (R) — The Soviet Union may want to buy between two and five million tonnes of U.S. grain this year following President Reagan's decision to lift the embargo on sales. Western agricultural experts said today.

They said the Soviet Union, which is already importing an estimated three million tonnes of grain a month, would probably want to "fill up some holes" if it could arrange for its ports to handle increased shipments.

After two bad harvests in a row, fodder is in short supply on Soviet farms, causing milk and meat output to drop in many areas despite record imports of grain from Argentina and elsewhere.

The experts said that with this year's harvest uncertain, the Soviet Union could be expected to need imports of at least between 15 and 25 million tonnes next year as well.

It was not certain that Moscow and Washington would be able to restore the level of political trust needed to conclude a new government-to-government agreement on grain purchases for the next five years, the experts added.

Under the existing agreement, which runs out on September 30 this year, Moscow had the right to buy a minimum of eight million tonnes a year.

President Carter embargoed any purchases above this level after the Soviet Union sent its troops into Afghanistan in December, 1979.

Moscow has not yet said anything publicly about renewing the agreement, but foreign ministry officials told a visiting congressman a week ago that the Soviet Union would insist on financial guarantees against any future political embargo.

Congressman James Senebrenner said the officials told him Moscow had to be convinced the United States was a reliable and competitive supplier.

The same point about U.S. reliability was made by TASS news agency when it reported President Reagan's decision. It said the embargo had hurt American farmers and presented the U.S. to the world as an unreliable trading partner.

Western diplomats believe that although the Kremlin managed to buy grain elsewhere, mostly in South America, the embargo made Moscow acutely aware of vulnerability to outside pressures because of its agricultural weaknesses.

Since the embargo was imposed, Soviet planners have been trying to make the country more self-sufficient by planting less wheat and more animal fodder

cropland. But this is likely to be a long-term task and the need for large imports is expected to continue for at least the next few years, according to expert estimates.

Press reports today said up to 20 centimetres of snow had fallen in some areas of central Russia, and the cold weather was expected to continue. "This weather is costing them grain," one expert said.

Dutch get contract for Saudi-Bahrain causeway

MANAMA, April 25 (A.P.) — The giant construction company Ballast Nedam of the Netherlands was reliably reported today to have landed the contract for the multi-million dollar Saudi-Bahrain causeway.

The weekly newspaper Gulf Mirror said the "top secret decision" on the contract will not be made public officially until the signing ceremony next month.

Saudi Arabia is the sole financier of the vast project, which envisages a 25 kilometre causeway to link Bahrain to mainland Saudi Arabia.

The causeway would be an easy traffic link between the island state of Bahrain and Western Europe through the east Mediterranean region. Experts expect a trade boom between Bahrain and Europe when the causeway is completed.

Ballast Nedam's bid was not

known here, but the Mirror said the project will cost about \$800 million. This is 400 million less than originally was forecast by construction experts when the project was opened for international tenders.

Ballast Nedam, sponsored by the DVP of Crown Prince Fahd, has been active in Saudi Arabia since 1963, mainly with sewage and water projects in the Al Khobar region on the Arabian Gulf.

It also has carried out extensive projects for the Saudi Defence Ministry, including the construction of domestic accommodation at all Saudi air bases. The Gulf Mirror said work on the causeway would not start for some months and would take four and a half years to complete.

The project will consist of four separate bridges totalling 12 kilometres, to be linked by 10 kilometres of embankment.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

2 U.S. oil companies report lower profits

NEW YORK, April 25 (A.P.) — America's oil companies are feeling the pinch of competition, and profits for all but a few are down significantly.

Conoco Inc. and Marathon Oil Co. released first-quarter earnings reports yesterday showing overall profits that were lower than a year ago and announcing losses on U.S. refining and marketing operations.

Only a few companies with relatively small refining and large production operations, such as Standard Oil Co. (Ohio) and Getty Oil Corp., have reported first-quarter profit increases. Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp. were among the companies that posted declines.

Conoco, the nation's ninth-largest oil company, said it earned \$250.9 million in the first three months this year, down 23.6 per cent from \$328.6 million in the same period of 1980. Revenues rose to \$5.4 billion in the latest quarter from 4.3 billion a year ago.

Marathon, ranked 17th among the nation's oil producers, said its profits dropped 49.8 per cent to \$69.8 million from \$139.1 million a year earlier. Revenues rose to \$2.42 billion from 2.27 billion in the 1980 period.

Conoco Chairman Ralph Bailey attributed the decline to "sluggish markets for petroleum products and chemicals" and said Conoco had been unable to fully recover the increased cost of crude oil.

World steel production down 5.2%

BRUSSELS, April 25 (R) — World crude steel production was down 5.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period last year, despite an 11.5 per cent rise from February to March.

According to the International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI) here, production was 113.5 million tonnes for the first three months of this year.

Worldwide production in March reached 40.25 million tonnes, compared to 36.09 million tonnes the previous month.

The monthly rise chiefly reflected a recovery in the United

States market, where production went up by 2.9 per cent last month, and in Canada, where it rose by 13.9 per cent.

The quarterly figures, however, showed production down in the U.S. Japan and the European Economic Community (EEC) while it increased in Mexico and South Korea.

Strike disrupts U.K. air traffic

LONDON, April 25 (R) — Britain's civil service unions announced plans today to cause widespread disruption at major airports over the next five weeks in support of a 15 per cent pay claim.

Some 3,000 air traffic controllers, who voted last week to strike in the deadlocked, seven-week-long dispute, will be involved in the phased plan of action starting on Monday morning.

Union officials said all air traffic movement within United Kingdom-controlled air space would be stopped during the peak morning period between 0630 GMT and 1300 GMT.

They said 16 airports, including London's Heathrow and Gatwick, would be affected in the campaign. Monday's stoppage would be followed by the withdrawal of traffic control services at Scotland's Glasgow, Prestwick and Edinburgh airports on Tuesday morning, officials said.

The unions said there would be further disruption at airports controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday but did not give details.

Kuwait lends Tunisia \$35.5m

KUWAIT, April 25 (A.P.) — Kuwait has granted two loans totalling \$35.5 million to Tunisia to finance development projects in the North African Arab state, it was officially announced today.

A \$21 million loan was granted to help finance a highway project. This loan, which is to be repaid over a period of 20 years, carries a 3.5 per cent interest rate per annum.

The second loan of \$14.5 million, is to finance an agricultural development project. It will be for 17 years, including a 5-year period of grace, carrying a 5.5 per cent interest rate.

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هذا هو الجورنال

Briare -- France's political barometer

By Bruce Clark

700 employees and the jobs have not been replaced. But many Briarais, as the town-folk are called, accept the president's contention that he has handled France's economy as well as could be expected in a time of world recession. "I've got nothing against him -- at least he's kept the country at peace," a garage owner said.

opinion polls that the president is likely to face his Socialist opponent in a second-round poll on May 10 after the other eight candidates have been eliminated. The real question, they argue, is how Gaullists and Communists will vote after their own leaders are out of the race.

In Briare, at any rate, most Gaullists plan to vote for the president, and it is far from clear whether supporters of Mr. Marchais will switch their support to Mr. Mitterrand.

Much as in the rest of France, Socialist-Communist relations in Briare are going from bad to worse. The break-up of the parties' electoral alliance, which took place at national level in 1977, happened on a tiny scale a year earlier, when the mayor and Communist councillors abandoned the idea of a joint electoral list.

"I realise now how naive I was to think that anything could be gained by allying with the Socialists," says Mr. Christian Pouvelle, a schoolteacher and veteran Communist militant.

He is adamant that it makes not the slightest difference to the French working class whether a Socialist or a Right-wing president comes to power.

Mr. Marchais has said that if he fails to reach the second round of the election he will certainly not support Mr. Giscard d'Estaing in round two -- but he will not necessarily back Mr. Mitterrand either.

And Mr. Pouvelle says that even if their party leader does recommend voting Socialist, many

communists, including himself, will still consider abstaining. Mayor Poullain agrees that his party is busily cultivating a moderate, social-democratic image and moving further and further from the Communists.

"If Mitterrand gets in, he'll look everywhere for allies except towards the Communists. I went to hear him speak the other day and he didn't mention nationalisation

or workers' control once." But in the Right-wing camp division between the rival parties is less deep, at least at grass-roots level.

The local Gaullist party organiser is not even contemplating a second round without Mr. Jacques Chirac. "He's going to win. The farmers round here are 80 per cent behind him. Everyone's fed-up with Giscard's vagueness -- vag-

ueness about the Common Market, vagueness about Poland, vagueness about Afghanistan," he insists.

But ordinary Gaullist supporters -- bemused by their candidate's spectacular rise in the opinion polls but uncertain about whether it will continue -- are thinking hard about a Giscard d'Estaing-Mitterrand encounter in round two, and they know who they will back.

"Mitterrand's the dangerous one," declared a stout, red-faced countrywoman at a party meeting, to general murmurs of assent.

Many of Mr. Chirac's more prosperous supporters -- squires, country doctors and businessmen are opposed to the president as much because of his style, which they see as arrogant and aloof, as because of the contents of his political list.

One prominent local Gaullist said that Mr. Chirac and already achieved his most important goal: he had ensured that Gaullism remained firmly on the political map.

Only Gaullist farmers feel real antipathy to the president. "Giscard's done everything to break small and medium-scale agriculture. It's only the big ones he's helped," said a farmer's daughter.

But most Gaullists and Communists will be happy with a solid 20 per cent vote for their candidates -- enough to keep them in the centre of the political scene, and give them a strong bargaining position if they choose to negotiate with whoever is elected president.

There are only two things about the forthcoming election that almost every Briarais agreed on: First, that it has aroused an extraordinarily low level of interest in a community which is normally very politicised, and second that a huge number of people have yet to make up their minds.

In 1974, Right-wingers in the town, like the rest of France, swung over to Valery Giscard d'Estaing from Gaullist Jacques Chaban-Delmas within days of the first round of the elections.

If Briare is true to its reputation as France's barometer, there is enough uncertainty to swing the election result in quite unexpected directions.

(Reuter)



Communist Leader Mr. Georges Marchais



President Valery Giscard d'Estaing



Socialist leader Mr. Francois Mitterrand



Gaullist leader Mr. Jacques Chirac

fascinates outsiders for reason -- its averageness. Its electoral sympathies uncanny habit of swinging and forward in perfect with the rest of the country, it an ideal political bar-

An executive at the flour mill remarked: "People don't realise that Italy's going to hell, West Germany's got problems and things aren't great in Britain either. France hasn't done too badly." He and his colleagues are hesitating between Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Chirac who, as they explain it, "has calmed down a lot" since the day in 1976 when he stormed out of the Elysee Palace after resigning as prime minister.

The flour mill staff all consider themselves loyal to the Centre-Right tradition which has dominated France since 1978.

But they would seriously have considered voting Socialist if the candidate had been the party's young wolf, 50-year-old-Mr. Michel Rocard.

Mr. Mitterrand, 65 and a candidate twice before, is too old, they complain.

Mr. Jean Poullain, the town's Socialist mayor, agrees that his party leader is not the ideal candidate to appeal to voters. "France needs someone new," he believes.

Many community leaders who predict re-election for the president base their forecast on electoral calculations which have little to do with the qualities of either Mr. Giscard d'Estaing or Mr. Mitterrand.

They accept the judgment of

The people of Briare agree on two things about the election. One is that it has aroused surprisingly little interest in a politically minded community, and the other is that a great many people have yet to make up their minds.

THE BETTER HALF By Vinsom

"Our lucky 'Creditor of the Month' is Philo the Plumber. See the rest of you next month."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN

©1981 by Chicago Tribune

Partner, opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.1--Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠A2 ♥Q987542 ♦7 ♣953
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
 2 ♣ Pass ?
 What action do you take?

Q.2--As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠A ♥J4 ♦AJ10872 ♣KQ98
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
 2 ♣ Pass ?
 What action do you take?

Q.3--Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠Q84 ♥K103 ♦AQ65 ♣AQ8

Q.4--Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠10762 ♥AK964 ♦K7 ♣J3
 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.5--As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AJ1065 ♥AJ83 ♦AK92
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West North
 3 ♠ 4 ♠ 6 ♠ 6 ♥
 7 ♣ ?
 What action do you take?

Q.6--Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠93 ♥954 ♦K762 ♣A852
 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?..

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS

1 Craving for unnatural food

5 Having no panache

9 -- garde

14 Norway's king-saint

15 One-time divorcee

16 Cook-out spot

17 Former British dominion

18 Miss Kett

19 Actress Massey

20 Super spy

22 Bedouin

23 Fabulous island, El --

24 Church off.

26 Asgard resident

27 " -- and Sada"

28 European capital

32 Pallid

34 Ms Alcott

36 -- my word!

37 Egyptian goddess

39 " -- Two Flags"

40 Socrates, for una

41 Lean to

42 Looked angrily

44 Kind of lettuce

45 1492, e.g.

46 Falstaff's princa

47 Insectivore

49 Ruth

51 Refreshers

53 Tiffnys,

56 Devilfish

58 Prospero's servant

59 Military unit

60 Designate

81 Iridescent substance

82 Selvaige

83 In -- (at sea)

64 Tumbler horses

65 Fashion name

66 Male ruminant

8 Long scarf

9 Copying

10 Brave

11 Joi

12 15th century vessel

13 Amphibian

21 Salute

24 Silas

25 Member

25 Alarmist

27 Author of "Burr"

29 Apollo feature

30 Letterhead

31 Aces

32 Feral

33 East of the Urais

35 Untwist a rope

38 Trained

43 Admonition

48 Vines

50 Dots of land

51 "No Other Love," e.g.

52 Apia's island

53 Scott's: Black writer

54 USSR esc

55 Silicate

56 Part of France

57 Crook

59 United

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

1 Sonnet

2 Homeric opus

3 Trudeau or Black

4 Scared: dial

5 1906 naval first

6 Kind of rocket

7 Opponent

ly Capp

YOU'RE NOT A SWALLOW?

THAT'S TRUE...IF YOU WERE A SWALLOW, YOU'D HAVE RETURNED TO CAPISTRANO YESTERDAY

BUT THEN YOU'D HAVE HAD TO STAY AT THE MISSION ALL SUMMER...

I'D HAVE MISSED YOU!

ly Capp

I HEAR MY PALS JUMPED YOU IN THE PUB LAST NIGHT. HEH! HEH!

PALS? WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT? THEY WERE OUT-OF-TOWNERS, COMPLETE STRANGERS TO BOTH OF US!

WELL, THEY'RE MY PALS NOW

ly Capp

WHAT'S THIS, JEFF?

IM THE NEW CORNER ORGAN GRINDER!

ISN'T IT SCARY BEING OUT HERE BY YOURSELF?

NAH!

MEET TRYING!

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

STUQE

NARVE

YEMINT

QUIROL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DANDY LEAFY AGENDA BEGONE

Answer: Either way it's a joke--A GAG

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

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